



# WOMEN'S STRUGGLE WITH LOW PAYING JOBS

## What is the purchasing power of a minimum wage earner?

- "\$5.15 today is the equivalent of only \$4.23 in 1995 – lower than the \$4.25 minimum wage level before the 1996-97 increase." ◇
- 66% of all minimum wage earners are women.
- A Nebraskan who works 40 hours per week and earns the minimum wage will bring home \$10,712 per year.
- A single mom with one preschooler requires a full-time job paying \$12.05 per hour—not \$5.15 minimum wage—to be self sufficient.
  - The average annual cost of child care in Nebraska for a 12 month old child is \$5,720.
    - **For a minimum wage earner this is 53% of their annual income.**
    - The average annual cost of public college tuition in Nebraska is \$2,627. ♀
      - This is 46% of the cost of child care for a 12 month old child. ♀
  - The average annual cost of child care in Nebraska for a 4 year old child is \$4,680.
    - **For a minimum wage earner this is 44% of their annual income.**
    - The average annual cost of public college tuition in Nebraska is \$2,627. ♀
      - This is 56% of the cost of child care for a 4 year old child. ♀
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- \* **The average monthly expense of transportation in Nebraska is \$127.**
  - This is 14% of a minimum wage earners income, or about \$1,524 per year.
- **Three out of four working women earn less than \$25,000 per year \***
- **Half of all women work in traditionally female, relatively low paid jobs without pensions.**

\* Status of Women in Nebraska Report, Institute for Women's Policy Research 2002  
♀ <http://www.childrensdefense.org/earlychildhood/childcare/highcost.pdf>